

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 148218
ORIGIN SS-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 148218

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GB

SUBJECT: SECRETARY LETTER TO BONGO

REF: (A) LIBREVILLE 1502 (B) STATE 148217

FOR AMBASSADOR

1. FOLLOWING IS "DETAILED STATEMENT" FROM SECRETARY VANCE
TO WHICH PRESIDENT CARTER DEFERRED IN HIS JUNE 24 LETTER TO
PRESIDENT BONGO. PLEASE DELIVER TEXT ASAP BUT NOT RPT NOT
BEFORE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

2. BEGIN TEXT: QUOTE: DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: PRESIDENT CARTER
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HAS ASKED ME TO PREPARE FOR YOUR INFORMATION THE FOLLOWING
EXPOSITION OF HIS VIEWS ON SEVERAL POINTS WHICH YOU RAISED
IN YOUR LETTER TO HIM OF MAY 26.

MIDDLE EAST

THE UNITED STATES REMAINS COMMITTED TO SEEKING A MIDDLE

EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT ON THE BASIS OF UN RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN ISRAEL SHARES OUR DESIRE TO ARRIVE AT A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT OF THE ISSUES BETWEEN THE ARAB STATES AND ISRAEL.

THE VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER BEGIN IN THE UNITED STATES ON JULY 19 AND 20 WILL GIVE ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO ASSESS MORE CLOSELY WHAT IF ANY CHANGES HAVE OCCURRED IN ISRAEL'S POSITION ON THE THREE MAJOR ISSUES DIVIDING IT AND THE ARAB STATES: TERRITORIAL WITHDRAWAL; THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION; AND THE NATURE OF THE PEACE.

IT IS MY HOPE THAT THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AT ITS LIBREVILLE CONFERENCE WILL TAKE A HELPFUL LINE IN DEALING WITH THE MIDDLE EAST DISPUTE. AT THIS DELICATE JUNCTURE, BOTH SIDES IN THE DISPUTE NEED ENCOURAGEMENT TO PERSEVERE IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE. THE NEW ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE BEEN IN OFFICE ONLY A FEW DAYS WHEN THE LIBREVILLE CONFERENCE MEETS, AND IT WOULD BE PREMATURE FOR THE CONFERENCE TO DRAW CONCLUSIONS AS TO WHAT THIS NEW GOVERNMENT MAY DO.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

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I CONTINUE TO GIVE MY CLOSEST PERSONAL ATTENTION TO THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. ZIMBABWE HOLDS THE GREATEST POTENTIAL FOR AN EXTENSIVE WIDENING OF VIOLENCE IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. A SOLUTION REMAINS ELUSIVE, BUT WE ARE PURSUING OUR COURSE OF SUPPORTING THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S EFFORT TO FIND A BASIS FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. IN THIS REGARD, SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE WILL MEET WITH BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN IN PARIS, JUNE 23, AND WE SHALL CONTINUE JOINT BRITISH-AMERICAN CONSULTATIONS WITH THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, THE SMITH REGIME AND OTHER AFRICAN PARTIES DIRECTLY INVOLVED.

I BELIEVE WE HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARD A SETTLEMENT IN NAMIBIA. IN TALKS IN CAPE TOWN EARLIER THIS MONTH WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FIV: WESTERN MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, SOUTH AFRICA AGREED TO A DIRECT AND EXTENSIVE UNITED NATIONS INVOLVEMENT TO ENSURE THAT FREE ELECTIONS BE HELD FOR A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY IN THE TERRITORY. THIS AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN THOSE TALKS PROVIDE, IN MY BELIEF, THE BASIS FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH NECESSARILY WILL INVOLVE

SWAPO AND THE UNITED NATIONS, ALONG WITH SOUTH AFRICA.
MANY DIFFICULTIES REMAIN, TO BE SURE, BUT WITH YOUR

ASSISTANCE AND THE HELP OF OTHER AFRICAN LEADERS, I
BELIEVE WE CAN REACH THE GOAL OF AN END TO RADICAL
INJUSTICE AND OUTSIDE CONTROL, AND THE ADVENT OF A
FREE AND INDEPENDENT NAMIBIA.

A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF SOUTH AFRICA ITSELF
IS BOUND TO TAKE A LONGER PERIOD OF TIME. FOR OUR PART,
MY GOVERNMENT HAS MADE IT CLEAR TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN
GOVERNMENT THAT WE ARE UNALTERABLY OPPOSED TO APARTHEID.
WE HAVE ENCOURAGED SOUTH AFRICA TO INSTITUTE POSITIVE
CHANGES. AT THE SAME TIME, AS VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE
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POINTED OUT TO PRIME MINISTER VORSTER IN VIENNA LAST
MONTH, UNLESS SOUTH AFRICA MOVES AWAY FROM APARTHEID
AND TOWARD FULL POLITICAL PARTICIPATION BY ALL
SOUTH AFRICANS, RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND SOUTH
AFRICA ARE BOUND TO DETERIORATE.

CHINA

PRESIDENT CARTER HAS FORWARDED TO ME THE MEMORANDUM
CONCERNING YOUR MEETINGS IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
CHINA. AS I MYSELF WILL BE VISITING PEKING IN AUGUST,
AND THE INFORMATION YOU PROVIDED WILL BE VERY USEFUL
BACKGROUND FOR MY TRIP, I WISH TO PERSONALLY THANK
YOU FOR IT.SINCERELY, CYRUS VANCE.

3. IF YOU CAN DISCREETLY DO SO, YOU SHOULD TRY TO OBTAIN
COPY OF MEMORANDUM ON BONGO'S MEETINGS IN CHINA "FOR
YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION." IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER
COPY WAS EVER ACTUALLY ENCLOSED IN MATERIAL SENT THROUGH
TEMPELSMAN, OR WHETHER IT HAS BEEN MISPLACED HERE. CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

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Message Attributes

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